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ligently and honestly done, and that it is responsive to a definite need.

A. P. M.

UNIFORM BUSINESS LAW. By Coleman Hall Bush. H. M. Rowe Co., Harlem Square, Baltimore, Md. 1915. pp. x, 465. \$1.10 cloth. \$1.25 Buckram.

Text books on commercial law may be divided into two classes: first, those which are intentionally confined in their application to a particular jurisdiction, and which are, therefore, unfit for use in any but the field which they are specially designed to cover; and second, those which are of such wide scope as to be useful only as declaratory of general principles, and of little or no value as practical handbooks of business law. Occasionally an effort is made to combine in a single work the desirable features of both classes. Invariably the attempt results in the production of a book which is, at best, unreliable in many respects, and actively misleading in others.

"Uniform Business Law," by Coleman Hall Bush, provides an apt illustration of what has been said with respect to the consequences of attempting too much in the construction of a text book on commercial law. The author's endeavor has been, to use his own words, "to present the widest range of business law consistent with its intelligible statement in limited space." From the point of view of logical arrangement of his subject matter, and clarity of exposition, he has accomplished much, yet the work as a whole is far from satisfactory. In some instances, as for example in his treatment of the subject of bankruptcy (page 96), and again, of the liability of stockholders for corporate debts (page 305), Mr. Bush has given to his topic such incomplete consideration as to leave the reader feeling that it might better have been omitted altogether. In other instances, the effort to gather the law of all jurisdictions upon a particular point into a single statement has resulted in the enunciation of rules which are, to say the least, of doubtful accuracy. As typical of these may be cited the rule which the author lays down (page 190) to the effect that the Statute of Frauds applies to the "sale of any goods or choses in action of the value of *five hundred dollars or upwards*." Further comment upon these points would serve no worthy purpose. In conclusion it may be remarked that the faults of Mr. Bush's contribution to the bibliography of commercial law should be charged in large part to a seeming disregard of the natural limitations of his opportunity. However ideal might be a system of uniform business law throughout the several states of the Union, such a system does not, as a fact, exist.

J. U. C., Jr.

FRENCH POLICY AND THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF 1778. By Edward S. Corwin, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1916. pp xvi, 430. \$2.00 net.

This scholarly volume dealing with "the one entangling alliance to which the United States has been a party" will be welcomed by every student of American history and diplomacy, for in it he will find an excellent and impartial treatment of a difficult subject.

The author is "particularly interested," as he tells us in his preface, "in emphasizing the idea that France's intervention in the American Revolution was motivated primarily by her desire to recover her lost preeminence on the Continent of Europe," and in pointing out that it was not merely "an episode in the British-French struggle for colonial dominion in the Western Hemisphere."

A second aspect of the subject which is given prominence is "the embarrassment which resulted to France from the conflict of interest between her new ally, America, and her hereditary ally, Spain," a conflict which made it difficult to secure the participation of Spain in the first place, caused France to put a very limited interpretation upon certain provisions of the treaty and finally caused the American commissioners to break their instructions at the negotiations of 1782.

The present work can only add to the author's reputation for careful and constructive scholarship in the field of American political history.

E. E.

Books Received

CASES IN QUASI CONTRACTS. By Edward S. Thurston. American Case Book Series. West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minn. 1916. pp. vi, 622. \$4.00.

CASES ON THE LAW OF PROPERTY. By Ralph W. Aigler. American Case Book Series. West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minn. 1916. pp. viii, 953. \$5.00.

RESCISSION OF CONTRACTS AND CANCELLATION OF WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS. By Henry Campbell Black. Vernon Law Book Co., Kansas City, Mo. 1916. 2 vols. pp. xii, 1779. \$15.00.

BANKRUPTCY FORMS. By Marshall S. Hagar and Thomas Alexander. 2nd Ed. Matthew Bender & Co., 109 State St., Albany, N. Y. 1916. pp. 963. \$9.00.

THE LAW OF IRRIGATION. By Joseph R. Long. 2nd Ed. The W. H. Courtright Co., Denver, Colo. 1916. pp. xvi, 626.

THE LAW OF WILLS AND THE MANNER OF THEIR DRAFTING, EXECUTION, PROBATE, AND CONTEST. By George W. Thompson. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, Ind. 1916. pp. xxxii, 1039. \$7.50.

THE LAW: BUSINESS OR PROFESSION? By Julius Henry Cohen. The Banks Law Publishing Co., 23 Park Place, New York, N. Y. 1916. pp. xxv, 415. \$2.50.